Warren commission

Oswald an FBI agent transcript says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Warren commission discussed a report that Lee Harvey Oswald had worked as an FBI undercover agent for more than a year before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, says a recently declassified commission transcript.

Members of the commission, including the late chief justice Earl Warren and President Ford, who was then a Michigan congressman, discussed the report at a closed session on Jan. 22, 1964.

The transcript remained classified top secret for 11 years until released to Harold Weisberg, an author who had filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act. Weisberg has written numerous books and articles criticizing the Warren commission investigation and its conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, shot and killed Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, 1963.

A copy of the transcript was obtained by The Associated Press.

At the start of the meeting, J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the commission, said he had been told by Waggoner Carr, Texas attorney-general, that "the word had come out that Oswald was acting as an FBI undercover agent and that they had the information of his badge which was given as No. 179, and that he was being paid $200 a month from September of 1962 up through the time of the assassination."

Rankin said he had talked to Henry Wade, Dallas district attorney, who told him the source of the report was a member of the press.

"There is a denial of this in one of these FBI records, as you know," interjected the late Representative Hale Boggs (Dem., La.), another commission member.

Later, Rankin said he and Warren had discussed the report and "we said if that was true and it ever came out and could be established, then you would have people thinking that there was a conspiracy to accomplish this assassination, that nothing the commission did or anybody could dissipate."

"You are so right," said Boggs.

"Oh, terrible," said the late Allen Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and a member of the Warren commission.

"The implications of this are fantastic, don't you think so?" asked Boggs.

"Terrific," commented an unidentified participant.

Dulles questioned why the FBI would hire Oswald as an undercover agent.

"What was the ostensible mission?" asked Dulles. "I mean, when they hire someone they hire somebody for a purpose. Was it to penetrate the Fair Play for Cuba Committee? That is the only thing I can think of where they might have used this man. You wouldn't pick up a fellow like this to do an agent's job."

Later, with the discussion about to end Dulles said: "I think this record ought to be destroyed. Do you think we need a record of this?"

"I would hope that none of these records is circulated to anybody," said Boggs.

This is explosive stuff. Reveals Govt and FBI "Liars and papers must be destroyed" Political dynamite etc.